Prayers for an election
from friends of Faith & Leadership

Holy God, whose perfect will is beyond our understanding, so inspire and inflame the hearts of your people that, in sincerity and strength, we may discern and elect wise leaders to govern and guide. Keep us mindful in our disagreement that our neighbors are not our nemeses, that our differences do not diminish our dignity, and that our decisions determine our common destiny. May we be fierce in our convictions without compromising our compassion, persistent in our principles without putting aside our passion, and dignified in our deliberations without demeaning our detractors. Then use us, we pray, to seek after justice, pursue mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God, for the sake of your love. Amen.

Deon K. Johnson
Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri

Some trust in governments, and some trust in borders, but we trust in you, O God. Send your Holy Spirit to reform our lives and communities according to your hospitality. Our sins have made us enemies of your reign, yet you call us friends. Transform us with your grace, that we may learn to love our neighbors as much as you do. Revive our desire for the world you want for us to have: where the poor receive good news, where prisoners are released, where the oppressed are liberated, and where people who are foreigners and strangers to each other welcome one another as friends. Heal our enmities with your gift of peace, and save us from the violences we have unleashed at home and abroad.

Isaac Villegas
Ordained minister and author

Sovereign God,
In a world filled with divisiveness and confusion, please help us to find clarity in you. Empower us to make decisions that honor your vision for us, not just as individuals, but as communities seeking to live as Jesus did. May our daily work and witness honor your will for humanity, and may your sustaining power strengthen us as we seek to do justice. Amen.

Jessica Young Brown
Professor, author and clinical psychologist

Creator, in this season …
… may we be centered by the promise of your presence,
… may we participate in the healing power of connection across difference,
… may new facets of your love surprise us in moments of dissonance,
… and may we hold your unfailing posture of peace with steadiness and compassion.

Elizabeth Le'anani Coffee
Managing director, Lake Institute on Faith & Giving

God, our Creator and Sustainer,
All the nations are like grass that withers and fades.
Sovereigns and magistrates rise and fall; You make nations great and bring them low.
But you, Holy One — your Word remains forever.
Teach us your way,
That we may trust in your love and redemption
As we become a people of peace.

Melissa Florer-Bixler
Author and doctoral student

Faith & Leadership